

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 194845
ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EB-08 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02
INR-10 INRE-00 /052 R

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O 021940Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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FOR WELLS AND VANDENHEUVEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, UN

SUBJECT: ECOSOC: ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: FELDMAN-SORENSEN TELCON

1. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO DRAW ON STATEMENT PARA. 2 IN
SUPPORT OF US ECOSOC EFFORTS ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS.

2. I HAVE ASKED FOR THE FLOOR TO EXPRESS THE GREAT
CONCERN OF MY GOVERNMENT AT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE
CONSULTATIONS GOING FORWARD TO PRODUCE A RESOLUTION ON
AN ILLICIT PAYMENTS AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT THE
PROGRESS OF THE WORKING GROUP HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL, AND
THAT THE STAGE HAS BEEN SET FOR A SUCCESSFUL DIPLOMATIC
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CONFERENCE TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL HELP
COMBAT A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF MUTUAL CONCERN TO DEVELOPED
AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

WE ARE GREATLY DISTRESSED AT THE APPARENT BELIEF OF
MANY DELEGATIONS WHO DO NOT DISAGREE WITH MY ASSESSMENT
OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROBLEM, OR OF THE WORK

TOWARDS AN AGREEMENT TO COMBAT IT, THAT THERE CAN BE A
POSITIVE RESULT FROM DELAYING FURTHER STEPS ON THE

AGREEMENT TO INDUCE A FASTER PACE IN OTHER FORA,
PARTICULARLY THE CODE OF CONDUCT. MUCH WORK REMAINS
TO BE DONE IN DEVELOPING THE CODE, AND THE TNC
COMMISSION IN MAY REFRAINED IN A CAREFULLY BALANCED
CONCLUSION ON THIS ITEM FROM FIXING ANY PRECISE DEAD-
LINE DATE. THE CANCELLATION OF NEXT WEEK'S WORKING
GROUP MEETING ON THE CODE, AT THE INSTANCE OF THE
G-77, CAN ONLY RETARD THE PROGRESS OF THE GROUP AND,
IN OUR VIEW, IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE PRIORITY WHICH
WE HAVE ALL AGREED SHOULD ATTACH TO THE CODE
DISCUSSIONS. MR. CHAIRMAN, OUR DELEGATION TO THE CODE
DISCUSSIONS HAS BEEN PREPARED TO MEET NEXT WEEK OR
AT ANY OTHER TIME TO WORK TOWARDS A CODE EXPEDITIOUSLY
AND DELIBERATELY. WE FULLY SUPPORT THE OBJECTIVE OF A
CODE RELATING TO TNE'S. WE FEEL THE PACE OF THE GROUP
SHOULD BE AS QUICK AS PRACTICABLE TO FULFILL THE
GROUP'S MANDATE FROM THE COMMISSION. BUT WE DO NOT
FEEL THAT THE DOOR SHOULD BE SLAMMED SHUT ON THE
ILLICIT PAYMENTS WORK AT THE THRESHOLD OF A DIPLOMATIC
CONFERENCE, BY HOLDING IT HOSTAGE TO THE INDEPENDENT
TASK OF THE CODE GROUP, WHICH IS NOW AT A VERY DIFFERENT
STAGE OF DEVELOPMENT.

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WE ARE APPREHENSIVE THAT THE WORLD WILL SEE US
AS HAVING INEXPLICABLY LET SLIP A PROMISING OPPORTUNITY
TO MOVE VIGOROUSLY AHEAD IN ELIMINATING ILLICIT
PAYMENTS. WE BELIEVE THAT DEMONSTRATION OF A FAILURE
OF WILL TO NOW PROGRESS TO A DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, ON
THE BASIS OF CAREFUL PREPARATORY WORK, CANNOT BUT
ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ATMOSPHERE AND WORK OF OTHER
ON-GOING EXERCISES, SUCH AS THE CODE OF CONDUCT AND
TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

I URGE MY COLLEAGUES TO JOIN TOGETHER TO AVERT
SUCH AN UNFORTUNATE RESULT AND TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS
RESOLUTION TO FURTHER OUR WORK. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE194845
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KSGUDGEON:EDK
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780316-0765
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808106/aaaadkxq.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08f88a58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1557943
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECOSOC: ILLICIT PAYMENTS
TAGS: EGEN, ECOSOC, UN
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08f88a58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014